APRIL FOOLS' GIVES DJS AN EXCUSE TO BE EVEN LESS SERIOUS THAN USUAL

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Every year, radio stations seem to try to outdo each other on April Fools' Day, a special occasion for the broadcasting industry when DJs can joke around even more than usual.

The winner for this year's best April Fools' stunt was probably KJQN (alias "KJQ," FM-92.7, 95.5, 104.9 and AM-1490).Just before 7 a.m. April 1, station program director Jon McGann informed Clyde Lewis and Kerry Jackson, KJQ's morning team, that the modern rock station had been sold to a Japanese broadcasting company and that their services were no longer needed.

Astsushi Kunitake and Yushitaka Maeda of Hashimoto Entertainment Ltd. immediately replaced Lewis and Jackson.

Listeners who awoke to KJQ found two Japanese disc jockeys speaking very little English, although the modern rock format was still running. The station's telephone lines were jammed with listeners who wanted to know if the new owners would change the musical format of KJQ. McGann told them the format would not change and said it was an April Fools' prank.

"It's amazing how many people called and actually believed the station had been sold to the Japanese," McGann said.

The two temporary Japanese DJs are students at Weber State University and the ingenious prank was devised by Lewis and Jackson, who were eager to take advantage of rumors about a format change at KJQ that have been circulating since the station experienced a big staff shakeup in November.

"We figured that since the media keeps insisting that we are going to change formats, we should have the last laugh," Lewis said.

"What better way to show everyone that a radio station can make personnel changes and still be dedicated to modern music," Jackson said.

Scott Gilreath, KJQ vice president/general manager, also assured all listeners the station will retain its modern-music format, and the morning team will likely be inventing more pranks and stunts in the future, even without April Fools' Day for another year.

- MORE APRIL FOOLS' RADIO - Listening to numerous stations the morning of Wednesday, April 1, was unusually entertaining, as other radio personalities also celebrated the date by acting even less serious than usual.

"Fisher and Todd" (KISN) and "Tyler and Teri" (KRSP) seemed to be two other morning teams who took the greatest advantage of April 1, next to KJQ.

In addition to giving the wrong time (one hour fast) once in a while, KISN also featured a hilarious version of "Candid Briefcase." This talking briefcase appeared to create a "Tommy, the Talking Telephone" at a telephone booth on a downtown Salt Lake street and it made sure a woman kept getting KISN personalities impersonating various people, instead of giving her the number she wanted.

KRSP's Teri kept announcing a bogus weathercast with six to seven inches of snow coming, and Todd backed her comments up.

- In other April Fools' doings - KKAT's Ken Simmons made at least one reference to April 1 weather by declaring the day's weather forecast to be cloudy before he mentioned April Fools' Day . . . KALL's morning team, led by Tom Barberi, explained some of the history and traditions in other countries for April 1, but the only joke I heard was the "There's a thread on your coat" prank . . . KXRK's "Casual and Allred" explained they would be leaving the next day on a flight out of town to attend a concert by KISS . . . "Jon and Dan" seemed to be their usual selves - with little apparent difference - perhaps proving that it's always April Fools' Day on the KLZX morning show.

- KFMY (AM-960) - "Sounds of Sunday" has moved. The popular music program used to air on KZOL, but since KXRK took over that station late last winter with a modern-music format, it has now moved to sister station KFMY (nicknamed "K-Family") and has been greatly expanded.

The show is now airing at least 24 continuous hours from midnight Saturday until midnight Sunday.

According to Duane Grass, president of the "Sounds of Sunday" organization, the program is entirely non-commercial and is actually lasting more than 24 hours at present - usually continuing until 6 a.m. on Monday.

Grass said the show is unique because it is being done on a non-sponsor basis and by a volunteer effort. He said the show may appear similar to some of the programming on "K-Star" - an LDS contemporary music station in Utah Valley - but that is a commercial endeavor.

"Sounds of Sunday" has six volunteers who help put the show together and is looking for more. The group may soon become a BYU Service Club.

The show airs Sabbath music, including announcement of activities and events for LDS wards, stakes, Boy Scouts, non-LDS churches, reunion news and basically anything from a non-profit organization.

Although the station's signal sometimes reaches as far north as Davis County, Grass said it is geared mostly for Utah Valley.

"We're a family-oriented community station for Utah Valley," he stressed.

Those groups wishing to put an announcement on the station can write to: K-Family Station, P.O. Box 960, Provo, UT 84603, or contact Grass at 373-9601 or 374-8504.

- KSL (AM-1160) will broadcast all four sessions of LDS General Conference live, as usual, on both Saturday, April 4, and Sunday, April 5, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day. KSL will also rebroadcast the sessions overnight, Saturday and Sunday at midnight.

- KUTQ (FM-99.5) - As many local broadcasters had predicted for several months, Gary Michaels recently left KISN (FM-97.9) for "The Q," where his father, Gary Waldron, took over as program director earlier this year. Michaels is doing afternoons on KUTQ.

- KISN (FM-97.1/AM-570) - With the vacancy left by Michaels, the station has made a few changes. Rob Boshard is doing the 7 p.m.-midnight shift, while Jim Morales does the 3-7 p.m. drivetime slot. Boshard previously worked at KISN, while Morales most recently worked at a Phoenix radio station. Morales is also the station's new music director.

Shawn Stevens, formerly an overnight personality, is now the executive producer for "Fisher & Todd" show and is also a weekend on-air personality.

- KISN has also started a big new contest, "The Mystery Microphone," where listeners receive clues helping to identify where the mike is. At stake are a pot of cash and travel vacations.

- KBYU (FM-89.1) - The station will premiere four new regular weekend programs beginning Saturday, April 4. "My Word" and "My Music" will air at 4:30 and 5 p.m. respectively.

"Classical Countdown" will be broadcast from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. In addition, the BBC World Service's "Newshour" will be heard at 7 a.m.

beginning Sunday, April 5. Next week, the show will air at 7 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday mornings.

- KUER (FM-90.1) - "Living on Earth," National Public Radio's weekly half-hour environmental newsmagazine, will air its first anniversary program on Wednesday, April 8, 6:30 to 7 p.m. The special show will highlight the most important environmental stories it has broadcast during the past year.

- KBZN (alias "The Breeze," FM-97.9) - Michael Uyttebroek and his "Distant Drums Approach" album will be featured on "Musical Starstreams," Sunday, April 5, 8-10 a.m. Later in the day, "Jazz Trax" (7 p.m.) will have guest Peter White. The show's "Archive Album" segment will be "Back on the Block," by Quincy Jones (1989).

Here's a schedule for the station's "7 O'Clock CD" program next week:

Monday, April 6: "Dare to Dream," by Yanni.

Tuesday, April 7: "Tears of Joy," by Tuck & Patti.

Wednesday, April 8: "Inner Motion," by David Benoit.

Thursday, April 9: "The Best Of," by Earl Klugh.

Friday, April 10: "Take to the Skies," by Richard Elliott.

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